

## FOCUS

### Updated Design Standards Include MI&R/FI&R Projects

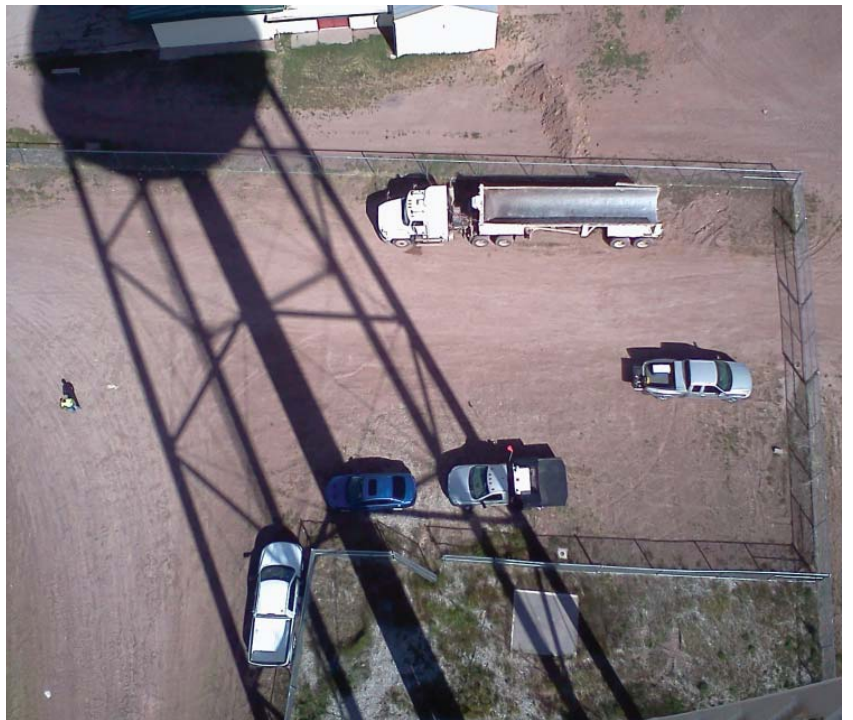
*Since 2007, OFMC's School Design Handbook has kept up with the latest in facility construction standards.*

OFMC's budget is moving from Replacement School funding to increasing emphasis on Minor Improvement & Repair (MI&R) and Facility Improvement & Repair (FI&R) projects. So the 2013 adjustments to the BIA School Facilities Design Handbook and Space Template Update, released this month, include performance standards for MI&R and FI&R projects.

The handbook offers guidance on "green" material and component selections for improvement projects, features updated requirements from the Department's Sustainable Buildings Assessment Compliance Tool, and gives examples for improving school security, such as recommendations for security cameras and secured entries.

The handbook also reflects lessons OFMC has learned from previous construction projects. For instance, new water towers at OFMC's replacement schools were having problems with freezing water in the winter and stagnant water in the summer. The handbook now provides performance standards for water towers.

The handbook also provides additional quality control guidelines that apply throughout the design and construction process.



*Water tower shadow at Wingate High School in New Mexico.*

For example, a code compliance plan has been added to the handbook's submittal requirements during design. This means that at the 25% Design Phase, the project designer will be required to meet with the Division of Safety and Risk Management to establish a written Code Compliance plan. The plan will outline those construction, protection and occupancy features necessary to minimize danger to life and property. Some of these features will include solidifying plans for:

- exiting requirements,
- the number of plumbing fixtures required,
- type of secured entries,
- fire alarm requirements,
- children anthropometric requirements for fixtures and cabinetry, and
- egress requirements.

Since these issues were coming to light during final safety inspections and delaying issuance of final Certificates of Occupancy, it is anticipated that the Compliance Plan will catch code issues earlier in the overall process.

**Video: See KinLani Dormitory security fence.**

**Video: See Winslow Dormitory security gate.**